



NAVAJO NATION DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

OCTOBER 2011

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Dennehotso Chapter stretches out inside new multipurpose facility



Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Director Arbin Mitchell said Local Governance Act certification is a boon for chapters, offering authorities like business site leasing, home site leasing, alternative forms of government, local ordinances, and a streamlined expenditure process. (Photo by George Hubbard)

DENNEHOTSO—For one secluded Navajo community, the days of squeezing into cramped office conditions are finally over.

In the quiet Navajo community of Dennehotso, Ariz., a new multi-purpose building rose from the desert floor in June 2011, to serve the ever-growing needs of the chapter.

Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Director Arbin Mitchell called the new building a major improvement in the quality of life for the chapter.

“Dennehotso has a central location for the community to gather and meet,” Mitchell said. “They also now have a sanitary and safe place for their senior citizens to live.”

George Hubbard, project manager with Design and Engineering Services (DES), said the total ap-

propriation amount for the project was \$1,975,998.87, which was completed in Sept. 2010. The architectural services for the project cost \$224,640. The construction cost amounted to \$1,751,358.87 for the building.

“The building went up wonderfully,” he said. “It was a fun project. The community was involved from day one.”

The pre-design phase of the project began in March 2006 and was completed in Sept. 2007. In Jan. 2008, the design phase began after the professional services contract was awarded to D. Sloan Architects of Albuquerque.

Hubbard said approximately 75 to 100 people were employed from the design phase through construction. The project was completed without a hitch, except for the six-month de-

lay from the need to upgrade the power line from single-phase power to three-phase power.

“Because the facility required a higher amperage, that delayed the project by six-months or so,” he said.

In March 2009, construction of the facility began with work from Arviso Construction Company, Incorporated, of Ft. Wingate, N.M. Construction of the building wrapped up in Sept. 2010 and DES finalized project closeout from Jan. to June 2011.

The multi-purpose facility has 8,000 square feet providing tribal office space, meeting facilities, senior citizens services and the community post office.

Carmelia Blackwater, community services coordinator for Dennehotso Chapter, said the improvement over their previous facility is tremendous.

“We went from 50 square feet of office space to 7,000 square feet. The community members really enjoy it,” Blackwater said.

She said the project originally began development as a senior citizens center in 1998. However, funding shortages and legal language in the proposal resulted in a project change to multi-purpose building, which increased leveraging opportunities.

Blackwater said the efforts of their council delegate, Katherine Benally, was instrumental in the completion of the project.

“One of the things that fueled this project was Katherine Benally and our chapter officials. The project originally started as a stand-alone senior citizens center. We learned it was better to leverage as a multipurpose building,” Blackwater said.

The State of Arizona funded \$540,910. The Navajo Nation contributed \$937,219. The State of Utah funded \$124,555. Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands contributed \$300,000. Dennehotso Chapter funded \$73,314.87 for the multipurpose building.

“This is just the first phase. For phase two, between the new building and the chapter house, we will have an atrium with an amphitheater and a place to cookout and picnic,” Blackwater said.

She said the chapter plans on developing the old chapter house into a youth center and fitness center. The new

building is a boon to the community, especially since residents usually have to travel to Kayenta or Mexican Water for the nearest store or recreation.

“We are trying to accommodate the young and old,” Blackwater said.

The Dennehotso chapter is currently 92 percent energized. With the completion of their power line project under development, the entire community will have electricity.

Currently, 52 miles of waterline is under construction south of Dennehotso, near Baby Rocks.

“We’re going to service 124 homes. The project cost \$5.2 million and is funded through Indian Health Services. The completion date is December 2013,” Blackwater said.

With all of these projects underway, she said the true goal for the chapter is to become Local Governance Act certified. Dennehotso is Community Land Use Planning certified and is currently planning for farming with their farm board.

“We identify ourselves as a team,” Blackwater said.

Information:
www.nndcd.org



Yá'at'ééh!

Welcome to the fifth issue of our Navajo Nation Division of Community Development newsletter. Much has happened since our last edition, which was a print edition included as a supplemental insert in the Navajo Times. We continue to promote viable communities through Navajo values. It is the mission of Community Development to empower Navajo communities.

This month's cover story is on the Dennehotso Chapter's new multipurpose facility, which now houses the chapter, post office and senior citizens center. Like most Navajo projects, the facility was in development for decades before becoming a reality. The community now has room to stretch out and provide services for their chapter residents.

These stories are not lost on officials in Washington D.C. Proof of this was the visit by Larry Echo Hawk, Assistant Secretary for the Department of Interior on Indian Affairs. Joining Echo Hawk were Keith Moore and Mike Black, the directors of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education. Echo Hawk addressed the 22nd Navajo Nation Council during the Fall Session.

The FY 2011 funding cycle from the Community Development Block Grant is underway and projects have been selected. Read about the \$4.6 million in funding provided to the Navajo Nation by the Indian Community Development Block Grant, which will provide infrastructure for seven communities.

Parking lots are usually not included when public facilities are constructed and sometimes, the road to getting these parking lots completed can be long and muddy. The Baahaali Chap-



ter celebrated the completion of their chapter parking lot and community members were ecstatic about not having to struggle through muddy conditions anymore, just to get to the chapter meetings.

Finally, we also have a story on the Presidential Town Hall

Meeting in Shiprock, hosted by the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President. The Navajo Nation's energy policy was the topic of discussion and community members voiced their ideas and opinions on which to direction to travel.

With the end of the harvest season come the winter weather and a need for our chapters to stock up on firewood in preparation for the coming snow.

The Weatherization Assistance Program is moving forward with their memorandum of agreement with certified chapters to weatherize their homes. Seven chapters have taken the ball and are running with their projects. We will provide an update in our next edition.

We can see the New Year in the horizon and we are preparing for the winter. In the meantime, we will continue to provide services to the Navajo Nation for infrastructure development, housing, weatherization, engineering services, governance support, solid waste management and much more.

Be careful traveling this winter season and remember to start with our division to build a solid foundation for your future.

Ahe'hee.

Arbin Mitchell, Director
Navajo Nation Division of
Community Development

NAVAJO NATION DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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Gerri Harrison, Legislative Associate
Brenda Holgate, Program and Projects Specialist
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Edward Preston, Registered Architect
Harrison Martin, Principal Planner
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George C. Hubbard, Project Manager
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Norman Scott, Community Involvement Specialist
Wilson Laughter, Environmental Specialist
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We welcome your questions, comments and feedback. We also welcome submissions from Navajo chapters, communities, departments and programs. Please direct correspondence to rabasta@nnccd.org. We regret that we are unable to publish all submissions. The editor reserves the right to modify submissions to conform to editorial guidelines and space constraints.

The views expressed in newsletter articles, submissions and spotlights are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of Navajo Nation Division of Community Development or the editor of Navajo Nation Division of Community Development. It is the purpose of this periodical to share a variety of viewpoints. Please visit our website at www.nnccd.org for further information.

Larry Echo Hawk

Assistant Secretary addresses 22nd Navajo Nation Council during fall session



Larry Echo Hawk, Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Interior on Indian Affairs said he has a special relationship with the Navajo people, ever since growing up in Farmington, N.M. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK-The 22nd Navajo Nation Council convened on October 17, 2011, for the start of the fall session.

Among the list of individuals reporting was Larry Echo Hawk, Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of the Interior on Indian Affairs.

Echo Hawk said he was appreciative of the opportunity to communicate on a nation-to-nation basis and was joined by Bureau of Indian Education Director Keith Moore and Bureau of Indian Affairs Director Mike Black.

"The Navajo Nation is the most significant tribal nation that we have in the United States, in terms of your membership, large land base and your treaty," Echo Hawk said.

Echo Hawk commended the Navajo Nation for providing

leadership nationally and working on Indian Affairs issues like the tribal consultation policy, which benefitted all of Indian Country.

Echo Hawk said he has personal knowledge of the Navajo Nation since he was raised in Farmington, N.M.

"My father employed Navajo people. I feel like I have a very special bond with the Navajo people," he said.

Echo Hawk said having Navajos employees in the federal government serving the needs of the Navajo people is crucially important.

He commended the work of Sharon Pinto, the newly appointed BIA Navajo Regional Office Director. He also praised the efforts of Dr. Charles "Monty" Roessel, who now serves as the BIE's Associate Deputy Director

for Navajo schools.

In the past 29 months, Echo Hawk said he has traveled to 43 states to see the conditions of Indian Country firsthand and to work with tribes on a nation-to-nation basis.

The relationship the federal government now has with Indian Country has improved significantly over previous administrations and Echo Hawk pointed to November 2009, when 564 tribes sent leadership to Washington, D.C. to meet with U.S. President Barack Obama.

"At the end of the day, as (President Obama) looked out over these hundreds of tribal leaders, he said, 'I promise you, as long as I am President of the United States, you will not be forgotten,'" Echo Hawk said.

The needs from tribes have been building over the gen-

erations, Echo Hawk noted, and the task of working with Indian Country is in his hands, along with Black and Moore.

"That is my job now, to work with Keith Moore, Mike Black and the other career employees in the agencies of Interior Indian Affairs to do all we can to move forward advancing tribal nations on a nation-to-nation relationship," he said.

President Obama's executive order to improve the consultation process with tribes was decreed in December 2009, which not only pertained to Interior Indian Affairs, but all departments and agencies in the federal government.

The federal government is now in the 11th hour of releasing the final policy on the consultation process with tribes on a nation-to-nation basis. See ECHO on page 10

Navajo Nation Energy Policy

President Shelly shares plan with members of Shiprock Chapter



Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly said one immediate concern on his energy policy is the removal of uranium tailings in Church Rock. Shelly said the plan is to remove the tailings from Church Rock and rebury it on private land with the appropriate lining to prevent groundwater contamination. He also spoke of establishing a new uranium commission. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Arbin Mitchell, Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Director, said determination of infrastructure services begins at the chapter level. Mitchell said chapters received funding to pay for archaeological and environmental assessments required on the front end of projects before they are deemed "construction ready." (Photo by Rick Abasta)



The Shiprock Chapter House was filled with concerned community members during the Presidential Town Hall discussion on the Navajo Nation's energy policy. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



During the town hall meeting, many members of the audience stepped forward to speak on their energy concerns, ranging from solid waste management to electrical and water services to economic development. Staff from the Office of the President and Vice President served dinner. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



This group of Shiprock residents closely listen to President Shelly's presentation on the Navajo Nation Energy Policy. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

Presidential Town Hall focused on energy development

SHIPROCK-In mid-August, Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly met with constituents in Shiprock for the Presidential Town Hall meeting on developing the Navajo Nation's energy policy. Community members gathered at the chapter and voiced concerns about energy conservation and issues like electricity, trash disposal and water-line development.

The town hall discussions began with a presentation from Navajo Nation Vice President Rex Lee Jim, who outlined the concept behind the energy policy: focused on conservation and renewable energy sources like solar, wind and natural gas. Division directors from the Executive Branch were also available to answer specific questions from the audience with regard to their respective divisions and departments.

"There's so much to tell you," Shelly said. "I want you to learn this. We're not a constitution government."

He said the Great Seal of the Navajo Nation tells the story.

The 50 arrowheads represent the 50 states of the United States of America. The rainbow represents sovereignty, which covers the Navajo Nation. The sun represents life, tradition, language and culture. The livestock is our livelihood. And, of course, the Four Sacred Mountains, representing our Navajo Nation boundaries.

"It makes me happy to see people hauling sheep wool into Gallup after shearing. That's economic development, you care for our land," Shelly said.

Navajo life is preserved through three laws, he continued, the first of which is the Navajo Tribal Code. Title 1 of the code identifies who you are, Navajo culture, he said. "Like the preamble to the Constitution, that's what (Title 1) is," Shelly said. The laws that govern the Navajo Nation are outlined in Title 2.

The second set of laws to govern Navajo people is found in

Fundamental Law, Shelly said. "The (Sacred Mountains) have songs and prayers, Fundamental Law stands there for us again," he said. Traditional peacemaking and K'e can be found under Fundamental Law, along with other guidance provided to Navajos since time immemorial.

The third set of laws to govern the Navajo Nation is the federal policies. "Those power plants on the Navajo Nation are not ours," Shelly said. "Let's change that around. What about the Navajo Nation providing the power? That's what this energy policy is about: you own it."

Also included in the energy policy is a provision on uranium mining, starting with a uranium commission. "It's going to be my selection, people who work for EPA, people in Washington, D.C. They have the answer," Shelly said. He noted that federal government employees are not allowed to speak out against uranium mining unless they run the risk of getting fired.

The plan is to hire a team of knowledgeable professionals that don't work for the federal government, to help with the open uranium pits and tailings. "We have to protect our laws, which is not to mine and talk for the people that were affected, through RECA," Shelly said.

The president encouraged the audience to register to vote, especially in flickering light of the national debt ceiling and current economic climate. "We thought the U.S. had a lot of money. They don't. They're just like you and me," Shelly said. "If you don't pay your debt we see repossession." He said the nation's Triple-A rating dropped to a Double-A, which instantly rocked Washington, D.C. with the yo-yo effect.

"Who did it hurt? You: the grandmas and the grandpas. It's your right as a voter," he said. Another potential disaster on the horizon are the rumors and talk of centralizing postal services in Phoenix, even closing down the



President Shelly said the Navajo Nation's energy policy will focus on alternative energy and renewable energy sources. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

Flagstaff branch and rural areas. "Grandma goes to the post office on the first of the month. These post offices were built with contracts in place. We're going to look into that because a contract is an obligation that has to be fulfilled," Shelly said.

While testifying before the House of Representatives Energy Committee, Shelly said he identified six federal programs the Navajo Nation must receive approval from before any energy development can take place. The Department of Energy, Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Interior, and Environmental Protection Agency all must be contacted for approval.

Since all six have different fed-

eral regulations to abide by, the process is susceptible to getting bogged down in bureaucracy, he said. Shelly noted, "This is where a lot of energy projects fail. Who wants to go into alternative energy when you have to go through all of (the six agencies)?"

Other considerations for the Navajo Nation include coal gasification and liquification. The federal government does not want the Navajo Nation to burn coal anymore and the tribal government stands to lose \$40 to \$50 million in coal royalties.

These energy policy issues were presented during the energy expo at the Navajo Nation Fair and Northern Navajo Nation Fair.

Information: <http://www.president.navajo-nsn.gov/>

Community Development provides FY 2012 budget report



Members of the 22nd Navajo Nation Council Resources and Development Committee listen to a report from the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development on the FY 2012 budget. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Director Arbin Mitchell is sworn in before the start of the Resources and Development Committee budget hearing at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Arbin Mitchell describes the proposed FY 2012 budget from Community Development. Again, Navajo Nation chapters will be funded to carry out PEP, housing discretionary and capital projects. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Reporting to the Resources and Development Committee is NND CD Director Arbin Mitchell, along with Design and Engineering Services Department Manager Vernon Clashin. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

FY 2011 ICDBG funding round

Seven Navajo communities to construct needed infrastructure projects



For decades, residents in the Sundance, Rehoboth, Zuni Drive-in and Peretti Canyon areas lived without electricity, although the twinkling city lights of Gallup were visible in the distance. Funding from the Capital Improvement Office and other funding sources provided electricity for families. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK-The final selections have been made for the fiscal year 2011 Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG). The Navajo Nation was approved for \$4.5 million, which will fund seven infrastructure projects.

The Navajo Nation Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) was awarded \$4,506,720 by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to construct six power line projects and one waterline project.

Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Director (NND CD) Arbin Mitchell said the seven projects funded are all basic infrastructure needs most requested from Navajo chapters.

"We still have students out there doing their homework us-

ing the dim light from a lantern," Mitchell said. "These projects will go a long way toward improving their quality of life."

HUD's Southwest Office of Native American Programs (SWONAP) contacted the Navajo Nation for the funding approval on Sept. 7, 2011, which is also the effective date of funding.

The timeline for the funding began earlier this year, from January 10-14, when CDBG held public hearings in all five agencies of the Navajo Nation for proposals.

On March 4, the CDBG proposal due date netted 32 funding requests amounting to \$19.3 million. CDBG submitted eight projects to HUD totaling \$5.5 million but only seven were approved for funding.

The Navajo Nation received the award letter from HUD for

\$4.5 million on Sept. 7. CDBG distributed award letters to Navajo chapters on Oct. 6.

The projects funded are for the communities of Kayenta, White Rock, Cornfields, Mexican Water, Oljato, Red Mesa and Lake Valley. The seven projects selected for funding amount to \$3,780,578. Administrative costs totaled \$726,142.

CDBG is working cooperatively with other funding sources to complete the infrastructure projects.

Kayenta's power line project will stretch 12.63 miles and serve 42 homes. The chapter received \$1,068,402 from CDBG and matching funds from the chapter at \$99,180 and \$49,500 from Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA), for a total project cost of \$1,217,082.

The Navajo Nation's small-

est chapter is ecstatic with the FY 2011 funding approval.

White Rock Chapter's phase-three power line project spans 4.48 miles and will serve eight households. The chapter received \$198,276 from CDBG and \$12,000 from NTUA, for a total project cost of \$210,276.

White Rock Chapter President Lucinda Henry said the residents are very excited with the infrastructure development, especially after years of inactivity.

"It's about time White Rock is getting some stuff done. We weren't able to get stuff funded before, but now, the time has come," Henry said.

When the power line is completed, she said all of the residents in White Rock would finally have electricity. The waterline project with neighboring Lake SEE FY '11 on page 12

Baahaali Chapter parking lot project

No more muddy conditions inside chapter house

BAAHAALI-Residents of Baahaali Chapter will no longer have to slog through mud to reach the chapter compound. Instead, they now have the convenience and benefits of a paved parking lot, complete with accessibility for disabled persons.

On September 16, 2011, the community celebrated the opening of the new chapter parking lot, after over 25 years of development, according to chapter president Isabelle Morgan.

In the last decade, Baahaali Chapter secured funding for the planning and construction of the entire chapter compound, which includes the Head Start and senior citizens center.

In 2008, the chapter saved \$540,000 for the planning and construction, but faced a budget shortfall after unforeseen cost increases in building materials appeared due to the lagging national economy.

Navajo Nation Council Delegate Charles Damon (Baahaali, Chilchiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh) requested funding for the chapter from the Council.

He successfully allocated \$200,000 for the parking lot.

"This parking lot is very good for the community and you voted for this project to move forward," Damon said.

Damon said the chapter is now able to move forward with multi-agency funding projects of this type with relative ease, after gaining valuable insights completing the parking lot.

The community of Baahaali is at an elevation of 7,300 feet and is located 25 miles south of Gallup and is seven miles east of New Mexico Highway 602.

The chapter became Local Governance Act certified on December 24, 2008.

Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Director Arbin Mitchell said the parking lot first came to his attention shortly after taking the reins of



The new Baahaali parking lot was a much-needed project, as community members had to slog through muddy conditions for years. At an elevation of 7,300 feet, the chapter experiences extreme weather annually. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

the division in 2005.

"I am thankful and appreciative for this completed project. Six years ago, when I first stepped into my position, Ms. Morgan approached me and said the chapter needed to complete some projects and one of them was this parking lot," Mitchell said.

Mitchell said the project was federally funded, with policies and reporting attached to the revenue, resulting in a lengthy time period to complete the parking lot.

He said the completion of the parking lot would not have been possible without the vote of the community members and the resolution that was approved for the project to proceed.

"This project cost about \$500,000. It wasn't just a paving project, there were studies that had to be conducted to address water drainage and other considerations. Plans and designs were done," he said.

Phase I of the project involved soil testing, drainage study and final design. Next came the earth moving and paving to finish the

parking lot.

Previously, the chapter had to deal with muddy parking conditions, which made the Head Start and Senior Center impassable. Even the garbage trucks were unable to collect trash.

The soil content for the Baahaali Chapter consists mostly of clay, which becomes thick, sticky mud, which greatly reduces vehicle traction.

The days of muddy chapter house flooring are finally over.

Emery Chee, land board member for the chapter, said the whole community is happy the project reached completion.

"I worked on this project for over two years and witnessed your chapter leaders lose sleep over this parking lot," Chee said. "These days, we require paved parking areas.

"A long time ago, it wasn't like that. But as you age, paved walkways are a necessity," he added.

Annie Descheny, secretary/treasurer, said her earliest memories of discussion on the parking lot stretched back to 1986, when she was elected council delegate.

"I would visit Arbin Mitchell and ask him about the status of the parking lot. He helped us a lot and we went through Arbin to get things done," Descheny said.

"If it wasn't for you, I don't think we would have ever seen this parking lot. We would all still probably walking around in the mud right now," she said.

Equally thankful was chapter manager Gloria Skeet de Cruz.

"It takes a team to get a project done. It's just not one person. It's a team," Skeet de Cruz said.

She said Damon got the Navajo Nation Council to approve over \$200,000 for the parking lot, with the remainder coming from New Mexico Capital Outlay, Navajo Department of Transportation, Capital Improvement Office and Design and Engineering Services.

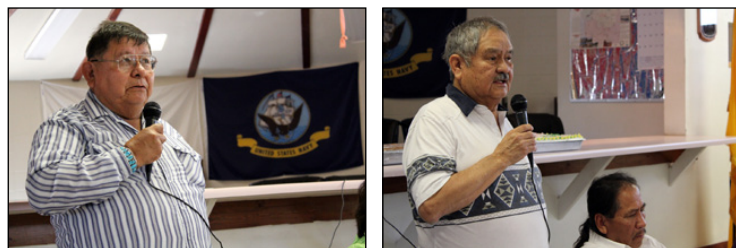
"The other people I want to thank are the voters of Baahaali Chapter. Without your vote, we would not be getting this money," Skeet de Cruz said. "I want to especially thank our chapter officials.

Information: www.nndcd.org

Residents rejoice over new concrete parking lot



Before being served mutton stew for lunch, residents of Baahaali Chapter celebrated their new parking lot on Sept. 16, 2011, along with tribal employees, chapter officials and their council delegate. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Left, Emery Chee, land board member for Baahaali, said chapter officials lost sleep trying to complete the project. Right, council delegate Charles Damon was responsible to allocating \$200,000 from the Council. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Arbin Mitchell, director of NNDCD, said the parking lot project first came to his attention when he took the reins of the division in 2005. Like the community, he was thankful to see its completion.. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



The chapter house is fully accessible, with a wheelchair ramp and steps with guard rails for easy access. Disabled residents no longer have to worry about muddy conditions for chapter meetings. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

Dennehotso Chapter's multipurpose building



The design and engineering phase initiated the new multipurpose building for Dennehotso Chapter. The facility initially began as a stand-alone senior citizens center and has since evolved into a multipurpose facility. (Photo by George Hubbard)



Laying the foundation followed, with steel bars to reinforce the facility's base. The concrete required time to cure before the next step. (Photo by George Hubbard)



Finally, the crew was able to begin construction in earnest. The new multipurpose building houses the chapter, post office, senior citizens center and office meeting space in their conference room. (Photo by George Hubbard)

Echo Hawk addresses Navajo Nation Council

Continued from page 3
to-nation basis.

Echo Hawk said one example of the consultation process with the Navajo Nation was the efforts with the Navajo Generating Station.

Echo Hawk said, "Just recently, we received another letter from President Shelly calling for a formal government-to-government consultation because the EPA is about to make a significant decision."

Although Interior Indian Affairs is not a decision-making authority on the NGS, Echo Hawk said they would fulfill their trust responsibility of communicating the views of the Navajo Nation and other Arizona tribes affected by the EPA's decision.

Another critical priority for Indian Country and the nation is education.

Echo Hawk said he attended the groundbreaking and dedication of the Rough Rock Community School, which was the largest American Recovery and Reinvestment Act project from Interior Indian Affairs, funded in excess of \$56 million.

"We have been able to either replace or do major repair on 28 Indian schools across the U.S. because of the ARRA funding," Echo Hawk said. "These dollars reached Indian Country."

"For generations, we as native people have lived in a deep recession or worse," he added.

While the nation cowers before the 9.1 percent unemployment rate, Indian Country has survived unemployment figures hovering around 85 percent in some native communities.

"Don't talk to us about recession. We're moving forward with education and it is the lynchpin on how we're going to make an advancement and achieve the kind of promise and prosperity that the First Americans deserve," Echo Hawk said.

One of those prosperities for

native nations involves land into trust.

Echo Hawk called for the help and support of the Navajo Nation to come to the aid of Indian Country regarding a "clean Carcieri fix," in response to the contentious 2009 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that has impeded land into trust for tribes.

"We need once again, the support, the strength of the Navajo Nation to speak up and help our brothers and sisters," Echo Hawk said.

Although the Navajo Nation does not have any issues at present time with land into trust, many tribes are wrestling with the opportunity to restore tribal homelands. Some tribes are even landless.

"We've been involved in the consultations that will lead to revised legislations of the BIA that have been on the books for more than 50 years with no change," Echo Hawk said.

He said in 2009, the Obama Administration was greeted with a stifling economic climate that had financial institutions on the verge of collapse, a plummeting stock market and sliding housing values.

Despite the abysmal realities of the nation's economy, Echo Hawk said President Obama added \$183 million into the coffers of the Interior Indian Affairs.

The 3.4 percent increase was supported by Congress, and in 2010, the Obama Administration increased the funding to Indian Affairs by over 10 percent.

"The President of the United States and Congress made sure that Indians were included across Indian Country," Echo Hawk said. "Today, we have a split Congress and it's more difficult to get these budgets through."

The test for Indian Country continues. It is a challenge steeped in survival.

Information:
www.doi.gov/tribes

Navajo Nation employees dress up for Halloween



Top, Chaz Bono and his Dancing With The Stars partner. Middle, Che Guevara returns for the revolution. Bottom, the one and only Mad Hatter looking dapper in a corduroy coat. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



The only goddess of the costume contest kept things groovy with her hippy partner sporting a little Flower Power. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



The legislative staff of the Navajo Nation Council joined together for the costume contest, running the gamut from rodeo clown to Cruella DeVille to the full length nun's habit. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

FY '11 funding round B&F Committee approves DCD fiscal year '12 budget

Continued from page 7
Valley Chapter will also provide water for 22 families living in the Owl Springs area of White Rock Chapter.

Another Navajo chapter waited decades for funding approval.

Cornfield Chapter will proceed with phase-one of their power line project, which will extend 24.64 miles

and bring electricity to 28 homes. C D B G awarded the chapter \$772,228. The chapter contributed

\$149,345 and NTUA funded \$42,000 for a total project cost of \$963,573.

Elizabeth Johnson, chapter manager for Cornfields, said the proposed power line has been in the planning stage for over 20 years, for the Navajo Station area of the chapter.

Approximately 50 families live in Navajo Station, she said, and phase one of the power line extension will light up 28 homes.

"We were very happy to get this (funding)," Johnson said. "This was a much needed project for our people. They've been wanting this for a long time."

Mexican Water Chapter's phase-two power line extension will cover 2.63 miles and provide electricity service to eight homes. CDBG awarded the chapter \$21,945. The chapter contributed \$10,500 for a total project cost of \$247,847.

At Red Mesa Chapter, the proposed scattered site power line project stretches 3.5 miles and will provide electricity to 14 homes. CDBG awarded Red Mesa \$262,830. The chapter funded \$20,000. NTUA contributed \$16,800 and \$20,000 was contributed by the Navajo Revitalization Fund (NRF), for a total project cost of \$319,630.

One Utah chapter has also supplemented CDBG funding with trust funds to complete their projects.

Oljato's phase-five power line extension will cover 5.14 miles and service 22 homes. CDBG awarded the chapter \$363,440. NTUA contributed \$27,000 and NRF contributed \$125,000 for a project total of \$515,440.

Albert Page Tinhorn, community services coordinator for Oljato Chapter, characterized the clients of the proposed power line as, "extremely happy."

Phase five of the Douglas Mesa project will serve 27 clients, he said.

"This chapter is very unique in that it has access to the Utah Navajo Trust Fund and the Navajo Revitalization Fund. The projects done in this community can be funded by these organizations," Tinhorn said.

The Lake Valley waterline project will cover 18.67 miles and provide water services for 55 homes in the Owl Springs area. CDBG awarded the chapter \$900,000. Combined with Indian Health Service's \$1,366,000 the project total amount is \$2,266,000.

Chavez John, program manager for the Community Housing and Infrastructure Department, said the projects funded are based on proper planning and collaboration with other stakeholders like IHS, NTUA, chapters, Jemez Electric Company and Rocky Mountain Electric.

"With the same cooperative effort, these projects will be a reality on a timely basis. I appreciate all that were involved in the preparation of the ICDBG application in the early spring of 2011.

CDBG continues to develop viable communities, including decent housing, suitable living environments and expanding economic opportunities principally for persons of low and moderate income.

Information:
www.cdbg.org

"This was a much-needed project for our people," Johnson said.



LoRenzo Bates, chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee, listens to the presentation from Community Development for the FY 2012 budget allocations. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Budget and Finance Committee member Lorenzo Curley asks questions about chapter funds during budget hearing on NND CD's budget for FY 2012. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Nelson BeGaye, B&F Committee member, listens closely to the proposed fiscal year 2012 budget from the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

Run for a stronger and healthier Navajo Nation



Before the crack of dawn, runners participating in Run for a Healthier and Stronger Nation begin the next leg of the run, leaving the sanctuary of Wheatfields Chapter. (Photo by Zane James)



The early morning hours did not deter these runners from reaching their stride. (Photo by Zane James)



Zane James, president of Wheatfields Chapter, said a healthy lifestyle is important for Navajo tribal members, especially with the epidemic of diabetes impacting native communities. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Community services coordinator Paula Begay welcomes participants to Wheatfields Chapter before feeding dinner to the participating runners. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



These community members all received a t-shirt for their participation in the 5K run sponsored by the Wheatfields Chapter, in conjunction with the Run for a Healthier and Stronger Nation. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

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